

Overview/Purpose



Community Empowerment was founded on the premise that communities and state government can work together to improve the well being of our youngest children. Community Empowerment's efforts unite agencies, organizations and community partners to speak with a shared voice to support, strengthen and meet the needs of all young children and families.

It is believed individuals in local communities working together can identify and implement the best means for attaining desired results.



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Achieving Results

Accountability measures are in place in every community in Iowa to demonstrate the capacity and commitment for achieving these results:

- ◆ **Healthy Children**
- ◆ **Children Ready to Succeed in School**
- ◆ **Safe and Supportive Communities**
- ◆ **Secure and Nurturing Families**
- ◆ **Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments**

Iowa Empowerment Board

The Iowa Empowerment Board supports state and community partnerships and promotes collaboration among education, health and human services.

The board is comprised of 18 voting members: 13 citizens and the directors of the Departments of Education, Human Services, Public Health, Economic Development and Human Rights. Six legislators serve as ex-officio members.



www.empowerment.state.ia.us

Community Empowerment Areas

Community Empowerment Areas enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health, and human services programs on behalf of children, families and other citizens residing in the area.

The focus is to improve results for families with young children.



Community Empowerment Boards

There are 58 Community Empowerment Areas statewide representing all 99 counties. Each area has a citizen-led board to support activities to promote collaboration and develop systems in the community for young children and their families.

A majority of the local board members are citizens and elected officials. Board memberships also include consumers and representatives from business, faith, human services, education, and health.



Comprehensive Services and Supports



State funding for Community Empowerment has continually increased since its inception. These resources allow local boards to: expand home visitation and parent education; create quality improvement activities for child care and preschool providers, including professional development and training; increase the availability of infant, shift care and inclusive child care; and increase access to child care and preschools for children living in low income families.

School Ready Grants provide comprehensive services for children ages birth through five years, including:

- preschool and child care
- parent support
- family home visitation
- parent education.



Early Childhood Grants enhance the quality and capacity of child care, including:

- regular child care, including recruitment of providers
- child care for mildly ill children
- second or third shift child care
- infant child care
- training to increase quality for center-based and home-based child care providers.



Community Empowerment is supported by interagency collaboration of the Departments of:

- Economic Development
- Education
- Human Rights
- Human Services
- Management
- Public Health

For general information on Community Empowerment, contact:

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Community
Empowerment



Community Empowerment Achieving Results

Community Empowerment believes that ensuring a strong start for every child is a shared responsibility of every member of the Iowa community and promotes our state's early childhood vision: ***Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy & successful.*** In order to make this vision a reality, Community Empowerment programs receive ongoing support to achieve proven results for children ages 0 - 5 years and their families.

Community Empowerment serves as a catalyst to integrate and coordinate an early care, health and education system of systems for our youngest Iowans.

For the latest information about community empowerment, visit the Iowa Empowerment web site at: www.empowerment.state.ia.us